

# Tigers

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Clemons also acknowledged the Gordonsville football managers and administration.

"Our principal is **Shane Vaden**. This is his second year being principal here. He played football here and understands the importance of it."

"We have **Butch Agee** and **Mac Petty** as our assistant principals here. Once again, both of them played and understand how important football is. Coach Agee will also be serving as athletic director for all sports at Gordonsville High School."

"**Cale Yarborough** who has been around now for four or five years. He does a really good job of trying to prevent injuries from happening and taking care of them when they happen. We are lucky to have him and he does a good job of getting those young men back on the football field."

"Our managers are **Hannah Haaser**, **Lauren Boles**, **Hailey Peyatt**, **Aeliyah Mayo** and **Lilly Turner**. Those ladies are a very valuable part of our day-to-day operations here at Gordonsville and without them we would be in trouble. They keep us hydrated."

## SCHEDULE

The Tigers enter their second season in Region 4-1A which includes: Red Boiling Springs, RePublic, Monterey, Pickett County, Jo Byrns and Clay County. Gordonsville's first run through the league in 2017 could not have went much better — as they rolled to a perfect 6-0 record and claimed the 4-1A title.

On their way to the region crown, the Tigers outscored 4-1A opponents 201-68 and put up shutouts in two outings — RePublic and Monterey.

Gordonsville will also share the gridiron with rivals: Smith County, Watertown, Trousdale County and Jackson County in non-region clashes.

The following is this year's Tiger schedule with a small preview of each game and comments from Coach Clemons on the contests :

### AUGUST 17

#### WATERTOWN AT GHS

Gordonsville will renew their rivalry with the Purple Tigers of Watertown to open the regular season. In recent seasons, the Purple Tigers have gotten the best of the Blue and White, but Clemons is hoping the Big Blue can flip the script .

"The first game this year we will be playing Watertown at Turney Ford Field," said Clemons. "The Watertown coaching staff does a great job with the kids that they have. I know the last couple of years they have got the best of us, but we want to try to turn that around. The Gordonsville-Watertown rivalry goes back a long way. People don't realize how long that rivalry does go back. Coach (Gavin) Webster went here and he does a great job with his kids. It is always a hard fought game."

2017 RESULT: WATERTOWN 20, GORDONVILLE 0

### AUGUST 24

#### GHS AT SMITH CO.

The Tigers first trip of the year will be a big one as they make the trek across the Cumberland River to face cross county rivals the Smith County High Owls.

Gordonsville has suffered defeat in the last four installments of this long and heated rivalry. The Tigers will hope to play the Owls tough and make a strong push to end Smith County's current streak in the rivalry.

"Coach Dickerson and his staff do a great job," said Clemons "They are always one of the best coached teams that we play. They had a great team last year. We came out and played with them for awhile and then they kind of took over in the second half. This year, I expect it to be like every other game we play with Carthage. It is a hard fought game until the very end. Our kids and their kids have grown up together and played Little League together, but still its that Gordonsville-Carthage game that means a whole lot."

2017 RESULT: SMITH CO. 47, GORDONVILLE 25

### AUGUST 31

#### GHS AT RED BOILING SPR.

Region 4-1A play begins for the Tigers with a trip to Red Boiling Springs. Gordonsville continued their dominance over the Bulldogs last season with a 22-point victory on a sloppy, rainy night in Gordonsville.

"Red Boiling Springs is going to have a new coach," said Clemons. "They pose us some threats because they run the Wing-T. It is always an opportunity there to play a football team with some plays we have not seen before."

2017 RESULT: GORDONVILLE 28, RED BOILING SPR. 6

### SEPTEMBER 7

#### TROUSDALE CO. AT GHS

Gordonsville's fourth contest of the season will perhaps be its toughest when it hosts Class 2A powerhouse and local nemesis

Trousdale County. The Yellow Jackets are picked to finish first in Region 4-2A and were ranked fourth in the Coaches' Preseason Poll for Class 2A. Gordonsville will have a shot at revenge after Trousdale swarmed them in Hartsville last season and claimed a shutout victory.

"Trousdale County comes to town and they are one of the preseason picks to win 2A," said Clemons. "Everyone knows the kind of tradition they have at Trousdale County. Gordonsville and Hartsville has always been a great rivalry and something we hope to continue down the road. They had a new coach last year in Coach Waggoner. He does a great job with his team. They have a lot of athletes. It will be a hard fought game."

2017 RESULT: TROUSDALE 42, GORDONVILLE 0

### SEPTEMBER 14

#### REPUBLIC AT GHS

RePublic makes their first visit to "The Jungle" in week five of the season. Gordonsville had one of their most impressive performances of the season last year in a 37-0 victory at RePublic. However, this year's team is an unknown since the school has added more students. The Tigers first home region game will be against the Trailblazers and the clash is also homecoming for the Blue and White.

"I know some of the guys who traveled there last year realize how talented that team was and they were all freshmen and sophomores," said Clemons. "This year, they have another class. So that will be a tough game for us. The good thing is they have to come to our place. Last year was their first playing varsity football. So when they add another class, they move to Class AAA or even higher."

2017 RESULT: GORDONVILLE 37, REPUBLIC 0

### SEPTEMBER 28

#### GHS AT MONTEREY

Gordonsville will enjoy a bye week before traveling to the Cumberland Plateau for their second road region test at Monterey. The Tigers have experienced success in this rivalry and rolled to a 32-0 shutout of the Wildcats last season at Turney Ford Field.

"Monterey has always got a good football team," said Clemons. "They always play hard nosed and they play the game the way it is supposed to be played. We have always had a good rivalry with Monterey. It will be an opportunity for our kids to go and compete against a good football team. It is also a big region game for us."

2017 RESULT: GORDONVILLE 32, MONTEREY 0

### OCTOBER 5

#### PICKETT CO. AT GHS

The Bobcats will make the journey to Gordonsville for the first time in two seasons as they hope to continue the rebuilding of their football program.

Gordonsville managed to earn a region victory over Pickett County last season, but the Bobcats had one of their more productive offensive outings of the season producing 36 points in front of their home crowd.

"Pickett County, the last couple of years, has struggled a little bit — but they had some young athletes on the team last year," said Clemons. "So we expect some bigger things from them this year."

2017 RESULT: GORDONVILLE 56, PICKETT CO. 34

### OCTOBER 12

#### GHS AT JO BYRNS

This late season clash will feature the two preseason favorites in Region 4-1A when the Tigers travel to Jo Byrns.

Many expect this showdown to decide the winner of the region title.

"You are talking about an extremely hostile place to play at Jo Byrns," said Clemons. "When you go to Jo Byrns, they fire up all of the jacked up four-wheel drive trucks — it is an intense place. They always have a good football team that is rich in tradition like us. We expect to have a good football game with them this year."

2017 RESULT: GORDONVILLE 21, JO BYRNS 14

### OCTOBER 19

#### GHS AT JACKSON CO.

Gordonsville will renew their series with area foe Jackson County for the second consecutive season.

The Tigers will travel to Gainesboro seeking to avenge a 35-18 upset loss at the hands of the Blue Devils during their 2017 bout.

"Coach Loftis and his staff do a wonderful job," said Clemons. "They lost some players from last year's team. I was talking to him on the phone, he thought they were going to be young — but he still thought they were going to be pretty good. They have got some athletes. That will be a tough game for us in Gainesboro."

2017 RESULT: JACKSON CO. 35, GORDONVILLE 18

### OCTOBER 26

#### CLAY CO. AT GHS

The Clay County Bulldogs were the surprise story in

Region 4-1A last season — completing a 6-5 campaign with a 4-2 record in 4-1A play. The Bulldogs were in the hunt for a region title until the last week of the season — when a 27-14 loss to the Tigers dashed their hopes and crowned Gordonsville region champions.

The clash with the Bulldogs will be Gordonsville's regular season finale.

"We end up the season and we play Clay County at home," said Clemons. "At that point you are looking at the region and trying to figure out how the standings are going to shake out. So that game is very important because it is a huge region game. It could be the difference in playing a home playoff game or going on the road. Clay County in years past has always been a big rivalry for us. I think that is a great game to end the season with."

2017 RESULT: GORDONVILLE 27, CLAY CO. 14

### THE 2018 TIGERS

Clemons shared his thoughts on all 40 members of the 2018 Tiger roster — beginning with the 15 members of the senior class.

"**BRAXTON SWICEGOOD** (Sr., 6'0", 185 lb., RB/LB) is playing some linebacker and some fullback / H-back for us on offense. He saw a lot of action last year as a defensive end. He is a gritty kid who works hard in the weight room. He still has some things he has to improve on, but we expect that he will be a good football player for us down the road."

"**LEVI HALLIBURTON** (Sr., 5'9", 160 lb., WR/DB) was our kicker last year and a valuable weapon for us. He played a little bit in the secondary. This kid has got tremendous speed. If we can get him in the right spot, he can make some plays for us this year. He is a good athlete."

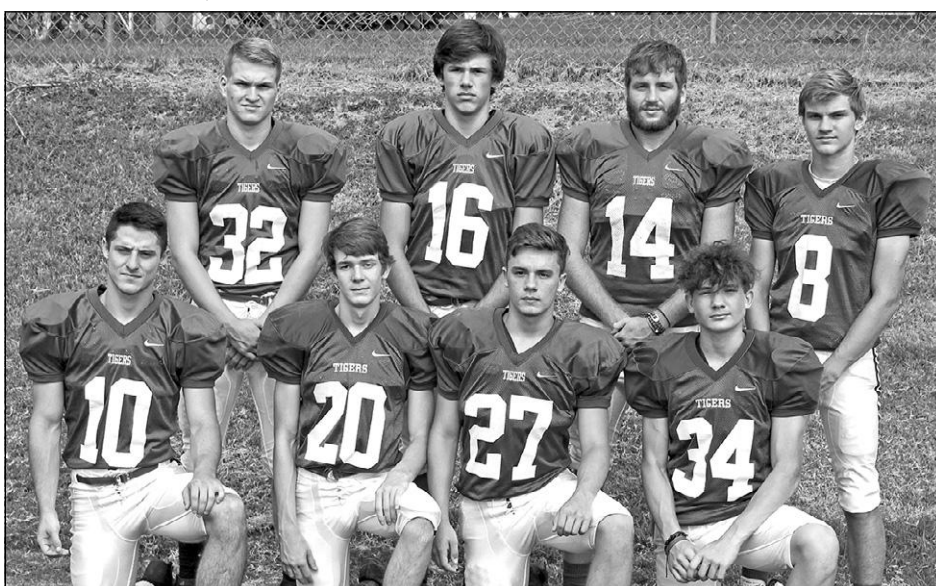
"**TAYLOR THAXTON** (Sr., 5'11", 158 lb., QB/DB) started for us last year in a slot position but has moved to quarterback this year. Taylor played a little quarterback late in some games and in JV games last year. He did a good job but this will be the first year he has actually been in control. He is continuing to grow everyday and getting better — understanding the game more and more every time we go on the field. We expect good things out of him. He has good speed also. He showed this spring that he had a little toughness too that we knew he had."

"**BILL WASHER** (Sr., 6'0", 170 lb., TE/DB) has played a lot of football since he has been here at Gordonsville. He has played a lot as a receiver and in the secondary. Bill has great hands. He has got a good frame on him. Being a basketball player, he understands how to use his body to catch the football. Bill is a kid who is pretty tough. We expect him to play big for us this year in the receiver department."

"**NATHAN HERD** (Sr., 5'9", 159 lb., TE/LB) played defensive end for us last year. He may be a little undersized to play that position but he plays with a lot of heart — and he has great speed. So that allows him recover and do some things a bigger person may not be able to do. Nathan has a great motor and he plays the game hard. We are expecting some leadership from him this year also."

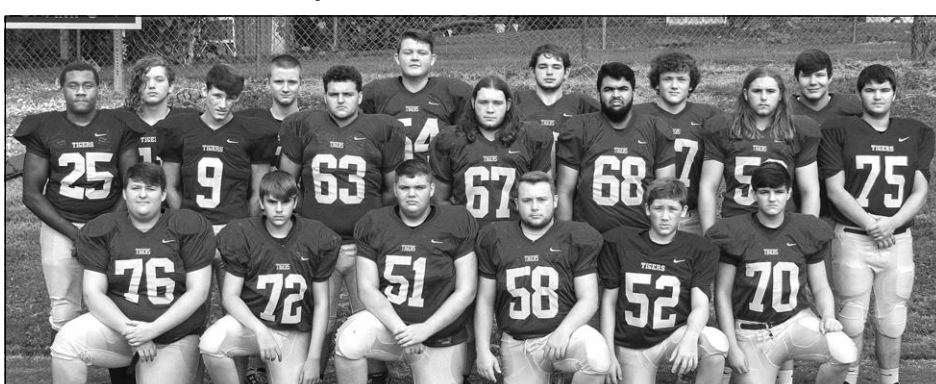
"**SAMUEL BURTON** (Sr., 5'9", 119 lb., WR/DB) is a senior that we are looking for to play some in the secondary for us and play a little wide receiver. He has worked hard to hone his skills down and catch the ball a little better — and run good routes. We expect him to play some out there for us."

"**CHRIS WELSH** (Sr., 5'8", 145 lb., RB/DB) is another kid who has got a little speed. He is going to play for us some in the slot and play some in the secondary — maybe a corner



SHEA HAILE / COURIER

**2018 GORDONVILLE HIGH RECEIVERS** — Kneeling from left: **Levi Halliburton, Samuel Burton, Chris Welsh, Josh Haire**. Second row from left: **Adam Brinkley, Wyatt Pemberton, Bill Washer, Treyson Davis**.



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**2018 GORDONVILLE HIGH DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** — Kneeling from left: **Peyton Cash, Jasper Tubbs, J.B. Hughes, Scott Pitman, James Pitman, Jordan Gentry**. Second row from left: **Zyshawn Andrews, Shawn Mayfield, Damion Franklin, Tristin Corthell, Jason Salisbury, Jay Wills, Kodey Madell**. Third row from left: **Dylan Singer, Colby Adams, Hunter Clemons, Billy Bennett, Lucas Carter, Justin Hancock**.

position. He is athletic. He is a really good soccer player so that has allowed him to move a little bit better on the football field."

"**BRAXTON GIVENS** (Sr., 5'9", 185 lb., RB/LB) probably has as much ability to run the football as we have had around here in a long time. He runs tough. He runs aggressive. He is on pace to break the all-time rushing record here at Gordonsville. He has carried the football a lot and in some games last year maybe too much. He is guy who has started since he was a freshman in high school. We expect big things out of him next year."

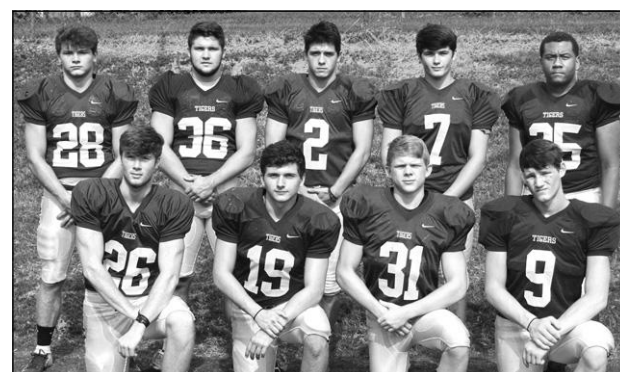
"**ADAM BRINKLEY** (Sr., 5'11", 152 lb., WR/DB) is our snapper on our special teams. He has done that for a couple of years now so we feel pretty comfortable with him in that role. He has played some wide receiver and some safety for us. He is a guy who has gotten better. At this point in time, he

is pretty smart. He understands the secondary coverages and where we want people to be which is really valuable when you are back there. You need somebody to get everybody lined up. We expect good

things out of Adam this year and hope he has a good year."

"**MATTHEW THOMPSON** (Sr., 6'0", 186 lb., RB/LB) has played a lot of football. He started when he was a

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**2018 GORDONVILLE HIGH RUNNING BACKS / TIGHT ENDS** — Kneeling from left: **Skyshn Washer, Nathan Herd, Jalen Brown, Shawn Mayfield**. Back row from left: **Braxton Givens, Matthew Thompson, Braxton Swicegood, Grant Underwood, Zyshawn Andrews**.

**GOOD LUCK OWLS & TIGERS**

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